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The Indigenous Digital Archive is a project of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in collaboration with the State Library Tribal Libraries Program and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, an organization of all 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.

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info@native-docs.org

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M941

**Miscellaneous Letters Sent
by the Pueblo Indian Agency
1874-1891**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON: 1974

RICHARD NIXON

President of the United States

ARTHUR F. SAMPSON

Administrator of General Services

JAMES B. RHOADS

Archivist of the United States

The records reproduced in the microfilm publication
are from

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS SENT
BY THE PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY
1874-1891

On the 10 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 19 volumes containing press copies of miscellaneous letters sent by the Pueblo Indian Agency, 1874-91. The records, part of the National Archives of the United States, are in the Archives Branch, Denver Federal Archives and Records Center.

From 1789 to 1824 Indian affairs were administered in the immediate office of the Secretary of War. In 1824 a separate Office of Indian Affairs was established within the War Department where it remained until 1849 when it was transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Until about 1880 there were two main field jurisdictions--superintendencies and agencies. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a geographical area, usually a territory but sometimes a larger area.

The New Mexico Superintendency was established with the organization of the Territory of New Mexico on September 9, 1850. The Territorial Governor served as ex officio superintendent until 1857 when a separate official was appointed. The New Mexico Superintendency was abolished in 1874, and thereafter the agents in New Mexico reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Agents were immediately responsible for the affairs of one or more tribes. During the 19th century they were usually the Federal Government's primary contact with a tribe. In that position they tried to restore or preserve peace, often encouraged tribal relocation, provided supplies, established schools, and began programs to "civilize" the Indians.

The Pueblo Indian Agency was established in 1854 at Santa Fe with jurisdiction over 19 Pueblo villages in New Mexico Territory, including Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni.

In 1876 the Pueblo Agency assumed control of the Cimarron Agency, then in charge of the Jicarilla Apache and certain bands of Ute. When the Cimarron Agency was abolished in 1878, the Jicarilla Apache were transferred to the Abiquiu Agency, and the Ute were assigned to the Southern Ute Agency in Colorado. At that time the Abiquiu Agency was consolidated with the Pueblo Agency.

The Abiquiu Agency, renamed the Jicarilla Agency in 1881, was consolidated with the Mescalero Agency in 1883 when the Jicarilla Apache were moved to the Mescalero Reservation. The Jicarilla Apache remained there until they were returned in 1887 to a reservation near their former home in northern New Mexico Territory. The Jicarilla Subagency was then established and placed under the Southern Ute Agency. In 1891 the Jicarilla Subagency was consolidated with the Pueblo Agency to form the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency, headquartered at Santa Fe.

The letters in this microfilm publication were sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; other Indian agents; Agency employees, including teachers assigned to pueblos; Territorial officials; governors of Pueblos; individual Indians; missionaries; merchants; and others. Included are monthly and annual reports to the Commissioner and certain types of financial and supply reports. The letters concern intrusions on Pueblo lands, law and order, alleged depredations, relations between individual Indians, tribal government, landownership, water rights, traders' licenses, Pueblo censuses, missions, schools, the purchase and transportation of goods and supplies, personnel matters, and accounts.

Although almost all of the letters were signed by the agent, there are several instances in which the letters were written and signed by the Agency clerk or left unsigned pending the return of the agent. Most letters in Spanish, usually sent to Pueblo governors, are accompanied by English translations. Copies of several letters received also have been pressed into these volumes.

In each volume except volume 16 there are alphabetical indexes to names or titles of addressees and to a few subjects referred to in the letters.

The letters are arranged for the most part in chronological order and are numbered consecutively within each volume. Numbered pages that are blank or contain duplicate letters caused by improper pressing have not been filmed. Gaps and uncorrectable inconsistencies in the numerical sequence have been indicated on roll notes. The few unnumbered pages that contain letters have been filmed. Some letters have been inadvertently pressed upside down or on the backside of a page. When this occurs, the letters have been filmed so that their placement corresponds to that of the other letters.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives of the United States designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75.

Microfilm publications of related records in the same record group in the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C., include *Records of the Office of Indian Affairs: Registers of Letters Received, 1824-1880* (M18), *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1880* (M234), *Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1882* (M21), *Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-1885* (M348), *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904* (M574), and *Records of the New Mexico Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1849-1880* (T21). A microfilm publication of related records in the Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Record Group 48, is the *Interior Department Territorial Papers: New Mexico, 1851-1914* (M364).

There are also related records in the Archives Branch, Denver Federal Archives and Records Center. Among these are the following series of records created by the Pueblo Indian Agency: reports, vouchers, receipts, and other records, 1874-91; letters received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1885-91; letters sent concerning the Cimarron Agency, 1876-79; and letters sent concerning the Jicarilla Agency, 1882-83. The Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency created an 18-volume series of letters sent, 1891-1900, that may be regarded as a continuation of the series reproduced in this microfilm publication.

The records reproduced in this publication were prepared by W. Grant McMurray and Sue Abbey. With Robert Svenningsen, they wrote these introductory remarks.

COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1873-93

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of appointment</u>
Edward P. Smith	Mar. 20, 1873
John Q. Smith	Dec. 11, 1875
Ezra A. Hayt	Sept. 27, 1877
Roland E. Trowbridge	Mar. 2, 1880
Hiram Price	May 4, 1881
John D. C. Atkins	Mar. 21, 1885
John H. Oberly	Oct. 10, 1888
Thomas J. Morgan	June 10, 1889

PUEBLO INDIAN AGENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date assumed office</u>
Benjamin M. Thomas	Dec. 1, 1874
Pedro Sanchez	Apr. 20, 1883
Dolores Romero	Aug. 6, 1885
M. C. Williams	Sept. 13, 1886
W. P. McClure	Aug. 6, 1889
Frank D. Lewis	
(U.S. special Indian agent in charge)	Jan. 1, 1890
Jose Segura	Mar. 7, 1890
John H. Robertson	Sept. 16, 1891

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Inclusive dates</u>
1	1 and 2	Dec. 1, 1874-June 18, 1877
2	3	June 18, 1877-Dec. 21, 1878
3	4 and 5	Dec. 24, 1878-June 3, 1880
4	6 and 7	June 3, 1880-Apr. 29, 1881
5	8 and 9	Apr. 30, 1881-June 29, 1882
6	10 and 11	July 3, 1882-Aug. 10, 1883
7	12 and 13	Aug. 10, 1883-Nov. 22, 1884
8	14 and 15	Nov. 22, 1884-Aug. 17, 1886
9	16 and 17	Aug. 17, 1886-May 10, 1890
10	18 and 19	May 12, 1890-Oct. 9, 1891